

## Menu Item for *Indoor Air Quality Assessment & Training*

**TRIBAL AIR WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE:** To assess the extent of indoor air pollution in reservation and tribal buildings and respond to indoor air quality (IAQ) complaints; to evaluate the potential relation of adverse health impacts to poor IAQ; and to provide training for tribal housing, health, and environmental professionals and members of the public on IAQ issues.

**Background:** Poor *Indoor Air Quality* has the potential to produce severe adverse human health impacts. EPA supports voluntary measures to educate and help homeowners and building managers understand the causes and prevention of poor indoor air quality and measures they may wish to undertake to ensure that the air will not have detrimental effects on the health of inhabitants. Assessment is often the first step in determining whether such voluntary measures are appropriate. Addressing the causes of indoor air pollution often involves no or little cost; such mitigation costs do not fall within the financial authority of EPA.

**Funding Mechanism:** This objective and supporting activities may qualify for EPA financial support through the grant authority of either the Clean Air Act §103, Indian General Assistance Program, and special Indoor Air Quality grant opportunities. Contact your nearest Regional Tribal, Air Program Office for further information. You may also wish to contact your nearest Housing & Urban Development (HUD) or Indian Health Service (IHS) offices to find out what assistance they may be authorized to provide.

**ACTIVITIES / TASKS:** The following *tasks* or *activities* are options for a grant applicant to consider in developing a workplan that includes indoor air quality-related objectives. Adapting these needs to respond to those of a specific reservation or tribal community is encouraged, taking into consideration the types of buildings that may be of highest priority and potential resources available for remediation. EPA Regional Offices are available to provide technical advice on what a particular tribe may require to adequately support their proposed workplan activities. A *timeline* is then created by estimating the dates by which each task, and sub-task, will be completed in order to accomplish the objective by the planned date.

- Obtain assistance and/or training on conducting IAQ assessments and community outreach.
- Conduct basic investigations of tribal homes and buildings; conduct walkthrough inspections that are primarily observational looking for pollutant sources, water and moisture problems, ventilation, hygiene, bio-contaminants, and observations about temperature and humidity, etc. Checklists may be beneficial to this effort. A Quality Assurance Project/Program Plan may be required, depending on the extent of any monitoring pursued.
- Gather information about health issues related to IAQ in tribal buildings or housing.
- Provide extensive indoor air training for facilities, health, and environmental staff, including common pollutants, health effects, prevention, assessment, and clean up.
- Provide training to building inhabitants/members of the public on IAQ issues, including common pollutants, health effects, prevention, assessment, and clean up. Focus on what a building occupant can do to prevent IAQ problems.

**Note:** *Remediation* work that may be needed to resolve IAQ problems is typically not a fundable activity under CAA grants. However, plans for *how* needed remediation will be accomplished should be considered in developing an indoor air quality program. Many needed changes can be accomplished easily by the building owner. Also, there may be other funding sources available to carry out larger renovations.

***Indoor Air Quality Assessments & Training***

**WORK PLAN RESULTS:** Results from EPA grant funded activities (also known as “deliverables”) are characterized as either *outputs* or *outcomes*. Both are important means of documenting grant accomplishments. For explanation of *outputs* and *outcomes* see the Menu Item for *Air Quality Administration Infrastructure*.

***Possible Outputs:*** [These are examples of *outputs* for this objective: there may be others.]

- Report on the number of homes assessed for IAQ pollutants and concerns, including a summary of all data and ongoing concerns or issues identified.
- Summary of health issues related to IAQ in tribal buildings.
- Report number of trainings or workshops held for tribal staff or professionals and community members of the public, including number of attendees. Include a course evaluation and a summary of evaluation results (Note: Results from training could be an outcome. See ‘*Possible Outcomes*’ below).

***Possible Outcomes:*** [These are examples of *outcomes* for this objective: there may be others]

Expressed as a result of an individual Tribal grant:

- Report on any available data that indicates improvement in indoor air quality, health outcomes, behavior changes as a result of grant-funded work.
- Documented change in knowledge, attitudes or behavior of students successfully completing IAQ training courses.

Expressed as a measure of overall Tribal program performance (over a stated baseline or cumulative total):

- Increase in the number of reservations or tribal communities where IAQ assessments or training were provided.
- Increase in the number of indoor air quality assessments in buildings on reservations and problems subsequently remedied.

**FY 2006 NATIONAL EPA PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

No factors have been established to measure EPA’s progress in this area during fiscal year 2006. The following would be examples of what such a measure could be:

- Number of tribal residences and buildings that have had indoor air quality assessments.
- Number of residents or building owners that have been reached with training or information on how to assess or improve indoor air quality.
- Number of tribes that have implemented the Tools for Schools program.
- Number of tribes that have instituted smoking reduction campaigns targeted to reduce smoking rate generally and to protect children and others at risk populations from the risks of second hand smoke. =